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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Sixth session
New York, 3-5 August 2016
Item 12 of the provisional agenda*
Geospatial information and services for disasters

Geospatial information and services for disasters

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the development of the working group's strategic framework.

Summary of the report

At its fifth session, held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 5/110, in which it welcomed the initiative of the Secretariat to commission a study on improving geospatial information policy, processes and services to support emergency response and disaster risk reduction, and strongly supported the proposal to establish a working group to further develop and implement a strategic framework on geospatial information and services for disasters in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

In its report, the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters describes its formation, delineates its terms of reference and workplan and details the processes applied in developing its strategic framework, including the review of existing frameworks, laws, rules and regulations of Member States on the provision of geospatial information and services before, during and after disasters. The report contains feedback and guidance received on the strategic framework during consultations with members of the working group and key partners and presents the current version as provisionally adopted by the working group.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Sixth session
New York, 3-5 August 2016
Item 13 of the provisional agenda*
Knowledge base for geospatial information management

Knowledge base for geospatial information management

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on new developments with regard to the knowledge base for geospatial information management, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report.

Summary of the report

At its fifth session, held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts took note of the report of the Secretariat on the status of the development of the knowledge base for geospatial information, including its functionalities and dissemination through a web-based portal. The Committee acknowledged the critical role of the knowledge base portal as a valuable tool for information-sharing and capacity-building, encouraged Member States and the five regional committees to continue to provide relevant material to the Secretariat for the population of the knowledge base and requested the Secretariat to periodically report on the continued maintenance of the portal.

In its report, the Secretariat provides an overview of the improvements in the thematic structure of and the content and functionalities added to the existing resources of the knowledge base since the Committee's fifth session. Given that the geospatial information management portal has been developed, the report outlines a number of actions to be taken for updating it.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 14 of the provisional agenda*
Review of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management

Review of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on the review of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for the global geospatial information management community to actively contribute to the effective coordination of the geospatial activities within the United Nations system.

Summary of the report

At its fifth session, held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 5/110, in which it took note of the report on the coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management, noted the many valuable initiatives undertaken throughout the United Nations system, but expressed some concern that they should be sustainable and not appear to be fragmented. The Committee called for a report documenting the geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements of the United Nations system in a systematic manner and invited the Secretariat to work closely with the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group to reach out to relevant United Nations partners to assist in the preparation of the report.

In its report, the Secretariat provides an overview of the existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements within the United Nations system.

* E/C.20/2016/1.

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